


From: INSTestimony
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 1:23 PM
To: Chinnici, Chris
Subject: FW: Raised Bill 35

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim McCollum [<mailto:jymccollum@samobile.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 4:31 PM
To: INSTestimony
Subject: Raised Bill 35

I'm writing to request that language concerning guide dogs for blind individuals be removed from Raised Bill 35. There is a well-established system in place for funding the breeding and training of guide dogs that has been working very well, with no involvement from insurance companies. Also, guide dogs are a travel aid, which a blind person may choose as an alternative for a long white cane for mobility. Involving insurance companies in the placement of guide dogs would necessitate involving doctors, who are trained to practice medicine, but often know little about the ways blind people function without the ability to see.

How a blind person travels is best left to the blind themselves, and to certain professionals who work with them, such as teachers and rehabilitation counselors. I am blind myself, and I cannot speak for those who have other disabilities. If this law would benefit others, I would support it whole heartedly. I feel that it would not benefit the blind or visually impaired, therefore I ask respectfully that guide dogs be excluded.

Jim Y. McCollum
New Haven, CT